**The Crusades were NOT justified**

**Causes for the Crusades - that are not justified:**

* **The Crusades had less to do with the Muslims than with Roman-Byzantine rivalry.**
* Alexus I wanted-- As the Byzantine emperor, Alexius stabilized the government of his empire. In 1095, Alexius sent envoys to Pope Urban II asking for A FEW TRAINED mercenary troops from the West to help confront a Turkish threat. Though relations between Christians in East and West had long been tense, Alexius’ request came at a time when the situation was improving.

In 1095 his ambassadors appeared before [Pope Urban II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Urban_II). The help he sought from the West was simply some [mercenary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercenary) forces, NOT the immense number of troops that arrived from Pope Urban’s call for help.

Not quite ready to supply this number of people as they traversed his territories, the emperor saw his Byzantine possessions subjected to further pillage at the hands of his own allies Alexios dealt with the first disorganized group of Crusaders, led by the preacher [Peter the Hermit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_the_Hermit), by sending them on to Asia Minor, where they were massacred by the Turks in 1096.

* Pope Urban II wanted: Pope Urban II called for a Crusade in 1095. Although the main stated objective was to drive the Turks out of the Holy Land, the Pope had several secret reasons for wanting to have the crusades.
  + Religious: By helping the Byzantines he hoped to unify all of Europe (including the Byzantine territory) under his religious rule - this would effectively get rid of the Orthodox religion. Pope Urban II also hoped that the Crusaders would end up converting some inhabitants of the cities they captured, but most of the people were slaughtered by the Crusaders, who acted like savages.
  + Political: In addition, he hoped to end feudal fighting - he had previously tried to end feudal fighting in Europe with his Truce of God - this did not prove to be effective. Sending warlike knights abroad to fight got rid of these dangers to his holy empire.
    - Pope Urban II hoped that the Crusaders would capture land so that the Christian Empire would expand in the Middle East.
  + Economic: If knights were fighting each other on European land - that land could not be farmed which meant the Pope’s tithe (10% of their income) was less. The Pope hoped to have economic gain for the Catholic Church by sending them to fight elsewhere.
    - Pope Urban II also thought that the Crusades would be a good way for the Church to make a large amount of wealth. The Church could do this because when the Nobles went on the Crusades they became broke and the Church bought the Nobles land cheap, and then sold it for a profit.
    - Pope Urban II also thought that some Holy Artifacts would be found on the Crusades and would make the Church look even more powerful and people would become more religious because of it.

**Timeline & Actions Taken (that were not justified)**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **1096‒1099** | First Crusade  \*\*According to witnesses, the Christian Crusaders’ brutality was horrifying!!  In Jerusalem, they boasted:  We rode in the blood of the infidels up to the knees of our horses. | First an army of peasants led by Peter the Hermit set off for the [Holy Land](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/history/middle_ages/the_crusades/revision/5/). In Germany in spring 1096 Peter had difficulty controlling his men, who went on [rampages killing Jews.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhineland_massacres) This resulted in strained relations between Jews and Christians. Christian armies also slaughtered men, women and children by the hundreds on their way to capture Jerusalem.  An army of knights followed, led by Godfrey of Bouillon, which captured Jerusalem in 1099. The Crusaders massacred the Muslims until, it was said, the streets ran with blood.  Alexius, worried at the growing disorder and fearful of his standing before the coming armed Crusader armies. He warned the People's Crusade to await his orders, but in spite of his warnings, the paupers entered Turkish territory. The Turks began skirmishing with the largely unarmed host. Peter returned in desperation to Constantinople, seeking the Emperor's help. |
| **1145‒1149** | Second Crusade | King Louis VII of France invaded the Holy Land, but was defeated at Damascus.  Christian armies suffered numerous defeats throughout the Crusades. For instance, the armies of King Louis VII of France and King Conrad III of Germany were defeated during the Second Crusade at the hands of Muslim armies in Damascus. **In the end, the Second Crusade was a terrible failure!!!**  The Crusaders that occupied Jerusalem were conquered by Muslim ruler Saladin, which prompted the Third Crusade. |
| **1189‒1192** | Third Crusade | In 1187, the Muslim ruler Saladin had recaptured Jerusalem.  The Crusaders (who included King Richard I of England) captured the port of Acre. But they quarrelled, and failed to capture Jerusalem. On the way home, King Richard was kidnapped and had to pay ransom. |
| **1202-1204** | Fourth Crusade | Venetian merchants ran out of money and ransacked their ally, Constantinople. Christians fought Christians. |
| **1212** | Children's Crusade | An army of young people set off on Crusade.  They were kidnapped and sold as slaves. |
| **1217‒1250** | Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Crusades | All failed. |
| **1396** | Battle of Nicopolis sometimes called the 'last' Crusade | An army of French and Hungarian knights were [massacred](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/history/middle_ages/the_crusades/revision/5/). |

**Results that Prove NOT Justified:**

* **Christians never secure the holy land in the end--a failure!!!**
  + **FAILURE TO MEET STATED GOAL OF FREEING THE HOLY LAND FROM MUSLIM CONTROL - MUSLIMS WILL HOLD TERRITORY UNTIL AFTER WORLD WAR 1**
  + **There was in the end, no territorial expansion for the Christian West**
* The Crusades kept all of Europe in chaos for two centuries.
* Cost Christendom several millions of lives (from **2,000,000 to 6,000,000** according to different estimates)
* Incalculable expenditures in treasure and suffering
* Thousands of the crusaders returned broken in spirit and in health after the repeated defeats of Christian armies
* The slaughter of innocents and the looting of Constantinople (a Christian city looted by the Christian crusaders!!)
* The destruction of Constantinople created increased hostilities between the Catholic and Orthodox faiths
* This event left the Byzantine Empire vulnerable to the Ottoman Empire
* Their failure and the growth of commercialism undercut the authority of the **Catholic Church**
* Establishes a tone for future Islamic / Christian / Jewish conflicts (that continues even today)